

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR PATRICIA GRIFFIN CARDWELL, NCANG, RET.

### HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Command Sergeant Major Patricia Griffin Cardwell. CSM Cardwell passed away last week on December 7. She was a veteran of the North Carolina Army National Guard (NCANG) and is survived by her mother, two brothers, and her niece and nephew.

CSM Cardwell was the daughter of Betty Nowarah Griffin and the late Reginald Griffin. She was a native of Martin County, a graduate of Williamston High School, and a member of the First Christian Church.

CSM Cardwell began her distinguished 28-year career with the NCANG on December 5, 1979, as a Specialist, and became a full-time member of the Guard in 1984. From 2001–2002, she attended the United States Army Sergeants Major Course at the USA Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. CSM Cardwell made history on April 1, 2004, when she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major, becoming the first woman to rise to this rank in the NCANG. She was later laterally appointed as a Command Sergeant Major of the 217th Human Resources Battalion Headquarters, and served in a dual status in both this post and as the Chief, Personnel Services of the Human Resources Section at Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh until her retirement on December 31, 2007.

CSM Cardwell served our country for three decades with tremendous character and devotion. She deserves the highest appreciation and commendation. I pray that her family is able to find peace in this difficult time. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring her today.

220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE BILL OF RIGHTS

### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 220th anniversary of the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights serves to check the power of government and preserve the freedom of Americans. Our founding fathers realized that even well intentioned governments answerable to the will of the voters can grow to be tyrannical. They recognized that protections were needed to guard against government interference and so they enshrined those protections in the highest law of the land. The Bill of Rights is unique in that it is a document that outlines government power not by what the government can do but by what it CAN'T do. The spirit of our nation is in that distinction. We are a nation built on the

idea that private individuals could create private industry with private interests and build a great society without an all knowing bureaucracy telling them how to do it. Times have changed since 1791. Our nation has grown, our government has grown, and today we inhabit a different world. There is no way that Madison and Jefferson and the rest of the founders who fought for a Bill of Rights could have envisioned the country we have become. Over the years we have fought many battles over the interpretation of these amendments and these principles have stood the test of time. The Bill of Rights is a fundamental feature of our country and a beacon to the rest of the world that freedom works, it is to be celebrated, and not repressed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HAROLD L. WILLIAMS

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Harold L. Williams as he retires after 35 years of service at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a law firm for low-income individuals and provides services in the areas of consumer rights, domestic violence, education, employment, family law, health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and tax. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1905 and until 1966 operated primarily with volunteers. In 1966, staff attorneys were hired and today there are 53 attorneys, 40 staff members and more than 1800 volunteers that serve Cleveland's low-income individuals. Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and otherwise vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Mr. Williams began working at Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in 1975 in the Law Reform Unit. Since 2003, he has served as the managing attorney of Legal Aid's Consumer Law Unit. Mr. Williams also supervises Legal Aid's law participation in Ohio's Save the Dream foreclosure prevention program. He is the editor and principal author of Ohio Consumer Law.

Because of his dedication to serving the people of Cleveland and his vast expertise in consumer law, Mr. Williams was the recipient of the William J. Brown Consumer Protection Award from the Ohio Attorney General in March 2010.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Harold L. Williams as he retires after 35 years of dedicated service to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

END OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week America solemnly observes the end of an era. After almost nine years of war in Iraq, our

troops are finally coming home, and Iraqis will assume the full responsibilities of self-government. The Obama Administration's leadership and the skill and bravery of our military men and women have made this moment possible. But as we welcome those troops returning home to their families, we must also remember the tens of thousands who came home with wounds both seen and unseen, the more than 1.5 million Americans who served in Iraq, and most of all the nearly 4,500 brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of this day. America's military families have born a heavy burden, and we must continue our commitment to support our troops, veterans, survivors, and families.

Iraq will face significant challenges in the days ahead. But America has an interest in Iraqi security and stability, as with all of our friends and allies in the Middle East. So when Iraq encounters those challenges, it will do so as a sovereign nation, with America as its partner.

HONORING MR. MIKE BUNCH, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE JOINT MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER AT ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

### HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the long, successful, and highly dedicated career of Mr. Mike Bunch, the Deputy Commander of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, which is located at the Rock Island Arsenal. Mr. Bunch has served our country as an employee of the United States Army for over 34 years. A native of Moline, Illinois and a proud graduate of Upper Iowa University, Mike followed his great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother, mother, and father to work on the Rock Island Arsenal. His first job on the Island was as a second shift keypunch operator earning \$3 an hour. Since then, he has worked on Rock Island Arsenal for all but three years of his adult life, even meeting his wife of 34 years, Julie, on the Island.

During that time, Mike served with the Army Material Command, Information Systems Command, and the Army Corps of Engineers. He has dedicated his career to ensuring that our Soldiers have the equipment they need to safely carry out their missions. I have not met a person more dedicated to our Soldiers, the United States Army, or Rock Island Arsenal than Mike. His expertise has served the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center and our nation exceedingly well, and I have often relied on his years of knowledge and expertise in my work for the Rock Island Arsenal and our Soldiers.

Mike is very humble and most likely would not admit this himself, but, while his retirement is well-deserved, it is also a significant loss to the Rock Island Arsenal. His commitment to the Arsenal and the work of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center to equip our troops is unparalleled. Whether it was during his time as a tool grinder at the Arsenal or his four years as Deputy Commander, his commitment to producing nothing but top quality